



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/586,592

07/19/2006

Horst-Werner Maier-Hunke

407-389

1647

7590

04/29/2008

Mark P. Stone
25 Third Street
4th Floor
Stamford, CT 06905

EXAMINER

ISLAM, SYED A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/586,592	MAIER-HUNKE, HORST-WERNER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SYED A. ISLAM	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

In response to applicant's communication dated on 02/19/2008 regarding the last Office action, the following corrective action is taken.

The period for reply of three MONTHS set in said Office Action is restarted to begin with the mailing date of this letter.

A complete copy including of the last Office Action is enclosed.

All claims filed in preliminary amendment on 07/19/2006 have been examined and enclosed in the office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 10-12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmanski et al. (5,189,822).

Regarding claim 1, Schmanski et al. disclose a sign, in particular an information sign, having a main body 10 (col. 3, line 29; see fig. 1) and a transparent covering panel 28 (col. 4, line 2; see fig. 1), connected detachably with the main body, for a sheet-form information carrier 30 (col. 4, line 11; see fig. 1) suitable for accommodation between the main body 10 and the covering panel 28, and having means for securely holding together the main body, the covering panel 28 and the information carrier 30, the main body 10 being provided at two mutually opposing edges with guide grooves 18 (col. 4, line 36; see fig. 1) for two likewise mutually

Art Unit: 3611

opposing edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30, characterized in that the main body 10 additionally comprises at least one undercut groove 22 (col. 3, line 56; see fig. 1) between its edges provided with guide grooves 18, said additional groove serving to accommodate at least one clamping slide 32 (col. 4, line 18; see fig. 1), the end of which remote from the center of the groove forms a holder for one of the edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30 not engaging in the guide grooves 18 (see fig. 2, where the slide is not in contact with the side groove 16).

Regarding claim 2, Schmanski et al. disclose a clamping slide 32 for the edges of the covering panel 28 and of the information carrier 30 not engaging in the guide grooves 16 (see fig. 2, where the slide is not in contact with the side groove 16) is associated with each of the two ends of the undercut groove 12.

Regarding claim 3, Schmanski et al. disclose its main body 10 takes the form of a portion of an extruded profile.

Regarding claim 4, Schmanski et al. disclose the undercut groove 22 forms a rectangular channel open toward the front of the sign (see fig. 1).

Regarding claim 5, Schmanski et al. disclose the main body is provided at its rear with ribs 14 (col. 3, line 34; see fig. 1) extending parallel to the guide grooves 18.

Regarding claim 6, Schmanski et al. disclose the undercut groove 22 projects slightly beyond the free ends of the ribs 14 (see fig 2).

Regarding claim 7, Schmanski et al. disclose the rear wall of the undercut groove 22 is provided with holes 24 (col. 3, line 65; see fig. 1) for fastening screws 26 (col. 3, line 67; see fig. 2).

Regarding claim 10, Schmanski et al. disclose the clamping slides 32 comprise narrow webs 46 (col. 4, line 24; see fig. 3) engaging over the edges of the covering panel 28.

Regarding claim 11, Schmanski et al. disclose the clamping slides 32 rest via clamping webs 40 (col. 4, line 52; see fig. 2, 3) against inner walls of the undercut groove 22.

Regarding claim 12, Schmanski et al. disclose the clamping slides 32 take the form of injection molded parts of plastics material (col. 6, line 29).

Regarding claim 17, Schmanski et al. disclose its main body takes the form of a portion of an extruded profile.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmanski et al.

Regarding claim 8, Schmanski et al. fail to disclose the holes take the form of slots offset relative to one another by 90°. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to offset the holes by 90 degree since it will still perform the similar function, because it is simple and inexpensive.

Regarding claims 9 and 18, Schmanski et al. disclose portions 38 (col. 4, line 41; see fig. 3) of the clamping slides 32 introducible into the undercut groove, but fails to disclose the

Art Unit: 3611

portions form covers for the holes and the heads of fastening screws. However, Schmanski et al. disclose any modification to the slides regarding size and shape are apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the plate to cover the screw for the purpose of preventing any damage or accidents.

Claims 13-16, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmanski et al. in view of Deniz (US 2007/0101629).

Regarding claim 13, Schmanski et al. fail to disclose at least one clamping slide is provided in the area of its end forming the holder with a display panel which can be swiveled to and fro between two positions. However, Deniz discloses a clamping slide is provided in the area of its end forming the holder with a display panel 24 (para 0017, line 1; see fig. 2) which can be swiveled to and fro between two positions. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the teaching of Deniz in the invention of Schmanski et al. for the purpose of display information.

Regarding claim 14, Schmanski et al. fail to disclose the end of the clamping slide forming the holder is constructed in the manner of a plate, which comprises at its rear edge a bearing block for the display panel. However, Deniz discloses the end of the clamping slide forming the holder is constructed in the manner of a plate, which comprises at its rear edge a bearing block 16 (para 0016; line 1; see fig. 1) for the display panel. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the teaching of Deniz in the invention of Schmanski et al. for the purpose of allowing the display panel to swivel.

Regarding claims 15 and 19, Schmanski et al. fail to disclose only the end of the clamping slide projecting beyond the top edge of the main body is provided with a display panel. However, Deniz discloses only the end of the clamping slide projecting beyond the top edge of the main body is provided with a display panel 24 (see fig. 1, 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the teaching of Deniz in the invention of Schmanski et al. because it is simple and inexpensive.

Regarding claims 16 and 20, Schmanski et al. fail to disclose one of its end positions, the display panel covers the end of the clamping slide projecting beyond the main body. However, Deniz discloses one of its end positions, the display panel 24 covers the end of the clamping slide projecting beyond the main body. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the teaching of Deniz in the invention of Schmanski et al. because it is simple and inexpensive.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SYED A. ISLAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7768. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley D. Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. A. I./
Examiner, Art Unit 3611

/Lesley D. Morris/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3611